



THE MESSENGER

Vermont Lutheran Church's Mission Statement:

Christians **A**ctively **R**eaching Out **E**xperiencing Christ and **S**preparing His Word

From Pastor Barry's Desk . . .



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I've had a lot of time to think during this pandemic and sitting around at home. Sometimes that can be a dangerous thing, but so far this additional for thought has brought me some good lessons to ponder.

A little while ago, I was sitting at my computer and thinking of nothing in particular when my grandfather clock stuck the hour and rang its chimes. The clock is special to me because I have a fascination with clocks, and it particular this clock since Ingrid gave it to me as a present before she retired from teaching. I love the sound of the chimes as it reminds us of the quarter hours, and then chimes the number of hours for each hour. To some people,

this takes some getting used to and it is a distraction, but for me it is soothing and comforting.

As I sat and thought about my clock, it occurred to me that this magnificent piece of work – with its crafted woodwork and mechanical precision – was created for one function only, and that is to tell the time. Oh yes, it looks very nice too, but that is rather secondary; its main function is to tell time. In today's world that's pretty unique. To have something take up so much space in the room and only have one function is an oddity. It's like we might expect it to have a built-in microwave oven or a small television set or at least be connected to Alexa in some fashion... But I am very thankful for the function the clock provides, and it fulfills its function well. It faithfully does what it was created to do.

I began to think about how we live and function in the world. We don't have the luxury of only being responsible for one thing; we have many roles and duties, and responsibilities. We are often family members having responsibilities in a household and often with an outside job which has responsibilities of its own. We have responsibilities as citizens, as community members, and as Christians. We have responsibilities to our friends, our neighbors, and to others. We cook, we clean, we speak up, and we teach. We feed ourselves, care for ourselves, we are responsible for what we say and do and how we act.

How much easier it would be to simply be a clock! No need for rest or food or bodily attention. All we would need is to be wound up once a week. How simply it would be to be responsible for just one thing.

But we aren't mechanical clocks. We are human beings made in the image of God; stewards of this earth and caretakers of our fellow human beings. It's a lot of work being human. We are responsible to a lot of people and for quite a number of different things.

It helps to hold in our minds that we have one purpose in life though, and that is to love one another. That's what Jesus told us. The rest of the

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From Pastor Barry's Desk (continued) . . .

things we do are simply an extension of that. As my clock tells time, it does so with the added benefits of being pretty, soothing our minds with its melodious chiming, showing consistency and preciseness, and reminding me and all who are within earshot of our appointments and commitments in a timely manner.

Maybe love is our purpose as time is the clock's purpose. All we do and all we are is simply an extension of that. We just need to be wound once in a while so we can keep on ticking...

Pastor Barry

News

Congratulations to
Rev. Joy Mortenson Wiebe
for being elected to the position of
Bishop to the
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin!



Bishop Joy is a great asset to our synod and will serve as Bishop faithfully and with grace.

If you would like more information about Bishop Joy, please refer to the synod's website at www.scsw-elca.org.



Sugar Creek Bible Camp

QUILT AUCTION



SATURDAY ~ SEPT 12, 2020



LIVE AUCTION	10 am – 1 pm	<i>Outdoors, in person!</i>
ONLINE AUCTION (Pre-Bid)	Sept. 5 – Sept. 12	<i>until 9 am Saturday</i>
COUNTRY STORE	8 am – 2 pm	
OUTDOOR CRAFT FAIR	9 am – 2 pm	

Beautiful Handmade Quilts, Sports Memorabilia, Packers Autographed Football (Whole Team!), Wood Crafts, Art, Gift Baskets & much more...

Quilts and other valuable items will be open for **ONLINE pre-bids September 5-12** to final sale at in-person Live Auction. Visit SugarCreekBibleCamp.org for e-Auction!

BBQ pork lunch, variety of pies, potato salad, treats, and more

Country Store open, big variety of craft & rummage items
* Silent Auction for many themed "Gift Baskets" (closes 12:30 pm)

Virtual 5K RUN/WALK – any time September 5-13
Get "active" in your support! Visit www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org for info / sign up for the 5K!

Come enjoy a safe, open-air, beautiful day at camp! Or participate online to support Bible camp from home

Our Bible camp honors **COVID-19** safety protocols: **OPEN-AIR** events, 6+ feet distancing, hand washing and sanitizing, state law re: masks indoors, food service rules, etc. to honor and protect our guests.



Call **608-734-3113** or Email camp@scrcreek.org

13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Road, Ferryville WI 54628
Auctioneers: Ryan and Seth Adams, Adams Auction Service, Prairie du Chien



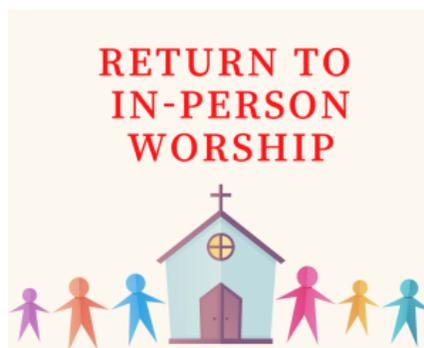
We're coming back to church!

Beginning on Sunday, September 6th (9:30 a.m.), we will resume Sunday worship services at church!

We will worship outside in the parking lot on the Veteran's Memorial Garden (east) side of the building.

The following are some instructions for attending the resumed services:

1. If it rains, we will worship inside.
2. Bring a mask. Even though we are outside, it will be a good habit to get into, and we would rather err on the side of caution than to be responsible for spreading some germs.
3. All services will be live broadcasted on 90.5 FM channel . You should be able to pick up the channel within a 1/2 mile radius of the church. The east parking lot is for those that wish to remain in the their cars for the service.
4. Services will continue to be video recorded and offered online, but will be posted to our website after the service has completed that Sunday.
5. A bulletin will be provided to help you through the service.
6. When communion is served, communion will be handed out prior to the service in prefilled cups with wafers. Communion will be offered through disposable cups. A communion server will pass them out so that we avoid cross-contamination.
7. An offering will be collected.
8. Please refrain from gathering in groups so as to limit possible spread of the Corona virus.
9. Please avoid shaking hands or hugging. We know that we are a physically close We know that we are a physically close congregation and distancing will be difficult, but we ask that for the safety of all we remain socially distanced with 6 feet of separation between us unless we are immediate family members.
10. You may use the bathrooms in church if necessary. Please remember to follow all cleanliness protocols and wash your hands.
11. The church will be cleaned each week using an EPA approved disinfectant.



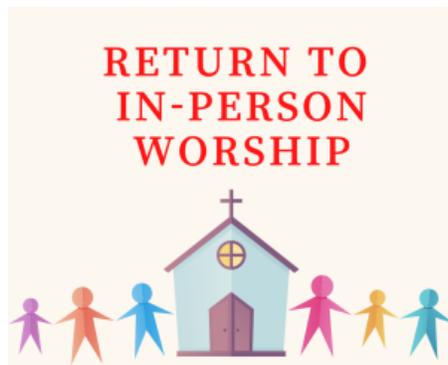
We're coming back to church!

OUTDOOR GUIDELINES

1. If weather is bad, services will be moved inside.
2. All members will arrive in their cars at the southeast corner of the parking lot and be directed by the Ushers. At that time, bulletins and/or communion will be distributed and offering will be collected.
3. The service will be held by the Veterans Memorial Garden.
 - Persons that wish to sit outside should bring their own chairs. After you have gone through the Usher stand and collected your items for the service, please park on the west side of the church.
 - For those who wish to participate from in their vehicles, the service will be transmitted over a radio channel that they can play over their car radio. After going through the usher stand, you may park on the east side of the church where we will be worshipping.

INDOOR GUIDELINES

1. Ushers will open church doors and hand sanitizer will be placed at each entrance.
2. In order to accommodate the social distancing guidelines, we ask that families or groups that generally spend time together arrive and are seated at the same time. We will seat from front to back and will skip pews to maintain a safe distance.
3. No pew Bibles or hymnals may be used. We ask that other personal belongings are limited.
4. We will not be using the balcony nor the family room in the balcony. Disposable Busy Bags will be available for those children 10 and under.
5. We will not be singing and will not be able to have the choir sing, but we can use instrument solos or recordings.
6. Readers will now do their readings from the choir area.
7. When exiting the church we will exit from back to front (like in weddings). Please exit the church immediately. If you would like to congregate, please do so outside.
8. There will not be hospitality. No food or beverages may be prepared or served.



Daily Discipleship

Sunday, October 9-15 (A) – Matthew 22:1-14

The Challenge of Discipleship: *Invitation*

Focus Question: *When was the last time you invited someone to attend church or to have a conversation related to a faith issue?*

word of life

“Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.”

Matthew 22:9 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 22:1-14

This parable (or parables) of the wedding banquet immediately follows the parable of the wicked tenants (Matthew 21:33-46). Jesus continues to speak to the religious leaders who want to arrest him (Matthew 21:46).

The parable of the wedding banquet of the king’s son has significant political overtones which can be easily overlooked. Think about it ... It would be imperative for those invited to attend the wedding feast of the king’s son, not only to show respect, gratitude and honor for the invitation, but also as an expression of loyalty to the heir to the throne. To turn down such an invitation would not only be socially rude; it would be politically rebellious (and perhaps even politically suicidal). Allegiance is at stake. Excuses would hardly be acceptable; and unlike the parallel parable in Luke’s Gospel (Luke 14:15-24) where a variety of excuses are given, those invited in Matthew’s parable offer none. Instead, they “made light” (the Greek word implies a response of apathy and disregard) of the invitation (vs. 5).

1. *What excuses might have been offered?*

The political rebellion is magnified as the king’s slaves are mistreated and killed by those who were invited to the banquet. In light of such insurrection, the king’s harsh response makes a bit more sense. The gracious invitation of the king to the wedding banquet is then extended to everyone, both good and bad alike (vs. 9-10).

2. *How do you explain the king’s response?*
3. *What accusation for the leaders do you find in the parable?*

The banquet hall is filled. And then the focus of the parable turns to the attire of the wedding guests. Why the concern about dress? There is a scriptural reference to a king providing robes for the invited guests. (See 2 Kings 10:22) In a similar way, many churches provide “proper” robes for choir members, acolytes or assisting ministers. And many times in Paul’s writings, the Christian’s life is described as “putting on” the new life of faith. (See Romans 13:12-14; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:24.) The proper garment would indicate not only a willingness to fully join in the king’s celebration but could also represent “putting on” the Christian life, bearing the proper fruit, and receiving the “garment of salvation” (Isaiah 61:10) from God.

4. *If the issue isn’t clothing, what is the point of the parable?*

The imagery of the wedding banquet is a common theme in the Old and New Testament; for example, Isaiah speaks of a promised feast of rich foods which God will provide (Isaiah 25:6-9). Revelation 19 describes the final, victorious banquet with the Lamb. Invitation, apathy, rejection, response – all echo in this parable. Clearly for Matthew, the new community of the church was a strange assortment of people. God acted with a marvelous disregard for the old rules of what was acceptable and bestowed grace overflowing.

5. *Where do we find ourselves in the parable?*

Pentecost Bible Study (continued)

word among us

It comes in the mail. It's usually fairly easy to identify, because unlike other pieces of mail, it's usually in a heavier, more stately envelope. Often times, there are embossed letters on it, making it appear almost regal. Sometimes the address is written in a fancy script, signifying something important. As you open the envelope, there is often an inner envelope to be opened as well, as if to say that the content of the envelope is so precious, so special, that it must not be creased or stained in its delivery.

Once the envelopes are finally opened, the letters on the parchment, printed in broad, bold strokes, often begin with these or similar words: "The honor of your presence is requested" And oftentimes, at the bottom of the invitation are four letters asking for a response: RSVP.

Today's parable, like the parables before it, is filled with grace and challenge for the follower of Jesus. There is a gracious invitation to everyone to join in the feast of the kingdom. We are invited to the table God has prepared for us. Everyone is included by this loving and gracious God. Everyone ... including those we least expect.

1. *What choice does God give us to respond?*
2. *How and when have you received invitations from God?*
3. *Do you believe every person has received an invitation from God? In other words, has everyone heard the good news of God in Jesus Christ?*

But any invitation – even one without "RSVP requested" – calls for a response. Will we go? Will we enjoy the company? Who will be there? What shall we wear?

4. *How will we respond?*
5. *What excuses might we offer God?*

As we open ourselves to receive Christ in our hearts ... as we come willingly to the table, prepared to discard the old clothes of hatred, jealousy, and self-righteousness ... as we quit thinking we have to earn the ticket to the meal but willingly accept the banquet that has been prepared ... we are given a new wardrobe. We are dressed in Christ. We put on compassion, kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, and love.

That is the grace note sounding in the Gospel parable. But along with that note is also sounded the note of judgment. Even as God invites, God also gives us the freedom to respond. We can choose to come or not attend the banquet. RSVP is requested.

6. *How might we extend God's invitation to others?*
7. *How can the challenge for modern-day Christians to invite someone to the banquet feast of God be lived out on a daily basis?*

Prayer

Maker of the universe, open our hearts and spirits to your invitation.

Dig Deeper

Isaiah 25:6-9

last word

This week,
invite someone
to church.



Daily Discipleship

Written by John and Robin McCullough-Bade

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www.elca.org/evangelizingchurch/dailydiscipleship

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September 6

Lord's Prayer: Forgive

Luke 11:2-4

September 13

Creation and Fall

Genesis 2:4b-7,

15-17; 3:1-8

September 20

God's Promise to Abraham

Genesis 15:1-6

September 27

God Works through Joseph

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22,
26-34; 50:15-21

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kimberly	Jaworski	September 01
Noah	Grenlie	September 06
William	Hanson	September 06
Barry	Hoerz	September 06
Sharon	Lee	September 06
Craig	Mickelson	September 06
Koah	Orth	September 06
Jill	Dybdahl	September 08
Julie	Schultz	September 10
Dale	Tollefson	September 11
Heidi	Lemke	September 12
Cody	Amble	September 13
Peter	Antonie	September 13
Kason	Thronson	September 13
Jennifer	Harms	September 15
Sawyer	Kennedy	September 16
Joel	Schultz	September 16
Susan	Meigs	September 19
Patricia	Herrling	September 20
Eric	Haugen	September 21
Karlee	Adler	September 22
Andrew	Donaldson	September 23
Debbie	Krebs	September 25
Karen Wildt	Duhr	September 26
Laura	Winchip	September 28
Michelle	Danz	September 29
Jason	Myers	September 29
Joanne	Skalet	September 29



VERMONT Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 20, 2020

Draft

The August Meeting of the Vermont Lutheran Church Council was held via conference call due to the Covid Pandemic and was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Aaron Tigert

Attendance: Aaron T, Carol J, Steve H, Ellie B, Jamie H, Leonard S, Pastor Barry, Larry Z

Devotions: Pastor Barry led us in Devotions speaking about reading. When we were young, many of us learned to read with the help of Golden Books. They were a great help in their simplicity of reading basics. The Bible also is a great help in helping us with the basics of life. The 10 Commandments, caring and love for each other, the basics! There is so much more to learn if we just take the time to read the Bible, the true Golden Book!

Pastors Report: Carol made a motion to approve as written, Steve seconded, and with the comment to correct the date it was unanimously approved. The Pastor's Report can be found printed separately.

Secretary's Report: Aaron made a motion to approve the JUNE Secretary's Report, Steve seconded and it was unanimously approved. The DRAFT of the August Minutes can be found printed separately.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported that contributions thru July 2020 are up \$6K from last year but as a month, July 2020 contributions were down \$3K from July 2019. That monthly decline continues through the Covid in a non Open Church situation that began in March. Our Checkbook balance is healthy at \$85K which included the \$19K PPP Federal Government CARE payment to Vermont. Due to an extension of the use of the CARE dollars we likely will not have to repay any of that amount as they helped us out with salaries and utilities of the Church. With the balance having a bit of a "rainy day" number to it right now, Steve reported concern that that could be used rapidly if contributions continue to lag! We are SO grateful to all the faithful members that continue to remember Vermont with contributions during this difficult period! As an example some Giving info was compiled showing :

2019- April – July- Financial Contributor Members-103

Non Contributor members-38

2020- April – July – Contributor Members – 60

Non Contributor Members- 81

We also discussed The Lutefisk Financial impact. We typically generated about \$14K Gross with a Net of about \$10K that we used towards Missions. This is along side other Mission Contributions that were made throughout the year. A decision may be made at a later date whether we will be able to meet our hoped for budgeted commitment of Lutefisk Funds. Further discussion is later on the agenda. Larry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Carol seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Building and Property Report: Carol made a motion to accept, Steve seconded the motion. Comments were made by Steve regarding the item in the report regarding the potential purchase of adjoining property. The Legacy Committee has been working to survey and evaluate a purchase acreage that would be sufficient for Vermont's future growth. They are scheduled to meet to formalize a purchase proposal to the current owners of the property. There was unanimous approval of the Report which is printed separately.

Old Business:

VLC Committee Structure Update is being reviewed and will be presented at a future meeting

Non Lutefisk, Lutefisk Fund Raising Letter: After discussion Carol J agreed to carry out the wishes of the Council to create a letter for a fund raising campaign to help with the absence of an actual Lutefisk Dinner.

One Letter – to the Congregation and all the Lutefisk Dinner Volunteers requesting financial donations instead of the usual request for Cookies, Potatoes, Desserts etc. that are usually purchased by members along with

being excused from the work days leading up to and including the Dinner. What is it worth to you for not having to participate in all those forms of activities?

Letter Two – From the list of ticket buyers from past years explaining about the non dinner this year and if they would be willing to make a contribution regardless to help our Mission effort.

Aaron made a motion to accept this proposal, Jamie seconded and it passed unanimously.

New Business:

Liz provided Calendar of Events: Events such as Rally Day, Sunday School Start, Confirmation and Confirmation classes and other Fall events. All pretty much to be determined by the success of our reopening in person Church Services.

Reintegration Plan for Return to Worship: What could become our new normal to return to in person Worship? Melissa H reported from her Covid Task Force knowledge that things haven't changed very much in the spread of Covid19 recently so with proper precautions we could consider indoor Worship. A variety of ideas both for indoors and outdoors were discussed. Ultimately we decided on two options. We could broadcast a FM version to outside car radios along with the live indoor Service. Indoors with Social Spacing, Hand sanitizing and Sanctuary cleaning. Face Masks would be required to participate inside. Target Date – September 6, 2020, 9:30 AM. Vermont's official Covid Committee of PB, Jamie H, Melissa H will lead the coordination effort to make this possible. Melissa made a motion to accept this proposal, Jamie seconded and it was approved unanimously!

South Central Wisconsin Synod Assembly: PB announced that this will take place via Zoom Conference on August 29. He is signed up to be a representative of Vermont and is looking for any additional members to participate in the Annual Assembly.

Aaron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Carol seconded and it was approved unanimously, the Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 19, 2020, at 6:00 PM

Pastor Barry led us in The Lord's Prayer

At 7:19 PM President Aaron closed the Meeting Conference Call

Submitted by Larry Ziemer, Secretary



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

**Financials: Year to Date
August 2020**

Operating Contributions:	\$99,180.64
Total Operating Expenses:	\$83,269.11
Difference:	\$15,911.53

Attendance Matters

August 2020

2nd	25
9th	33
16th	24
23th	15
30th	11

Church Council Meeting June 17, 2020
Pastor's Report

1 Wedding: 06/20/2020 Cricket Cushman & Jim Stapelmann (at Stapelmann Farm)

1 Funeral: 08/15/2020 Tom Wilkins (died April 28, 2020)

Things have been pretty slow with summertime schedules and COVID shut-down. I have had a couple of wedding cancellations as couples are unable to have large weddings in the church. I have two weddings that have rescheduled to later dates.

I've continued to record services each week and post them to our website. This is an involved process which might get easier as time progresses, but right now takes me about 6-8 hours not including writing the sermon. I do believe that these will have to continue even after we've resumed Sunday morning services in the church. I have gotten much positive feedback about these.

I have just finished taking a two-week vacation. Actually, I had to stay couch-ridden because of a large blot clot that had formed in my right leg vein. I have plenty of vacation time to use because I hadn't taken any this year, so I thought I'd just use some of that time.

I have tried to continue being in communication with our shut-ins and those experiencing difficulties in this complex time. So far, though things have dragged on, people seem to be making do with friends, family, and neighbors helping out. It is a arduous time for the elderly, and especially those who are single and living alone.

We had a funeral service for Tom Wilkins on Saturday, Aug. 15th for family only. It was difficult since we could have had an over-flowing church with friends and people that Tom had coached, taught, and touched as a friend and active community leader, but circumstances just didn't allow for such a gathering in these times. Unfortunately, Pat Hawkins, a long-time friend and companion was unable to attend because of a possible recent contact with someone who came down with COVID, so I recorded the service with a small, fixed camera. I was able then to send that service to Pat, and as long as I was at it, I posted the service on our church's webpage.

As far as in-person services go, everything is still up in the air. I have ordered an FM transmitter microphone so that we can do an outdoor worship service. I am looking at September 06th as a goal for now. Folks I have talked with said that they have gone to an every-other week service outside (time to see if there are any people that come down with the virus from worship), so I'm looking at that for September and we'll go from there. I also plan to offer communion on the 6th with the disposable cups & wafers we had ordered ... If there are no objections....

God's Peace,
Pastor Barry

Building and Property Report

Summer work continues on the maintenance of the Church gardens, weed killer is being applied to the turf on a as needed timetable.

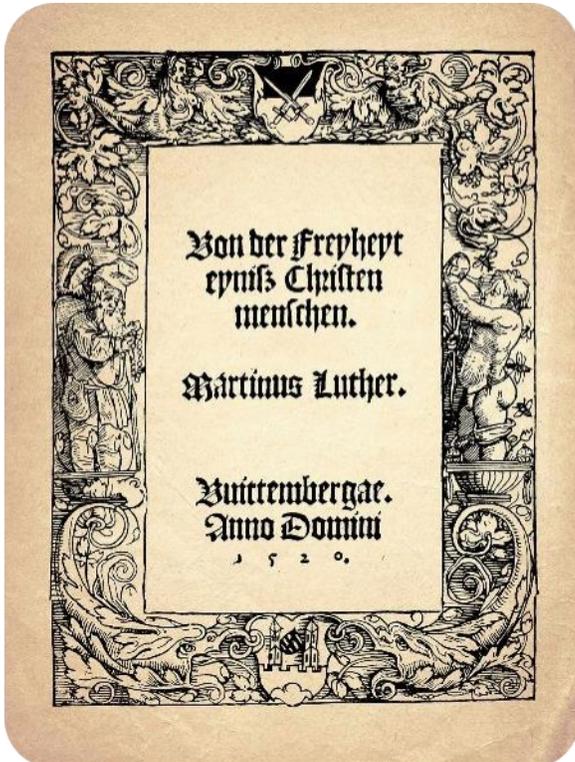
Continued time and effort is being put into moving along the potential purchase of adjoining property. A plaque recognizing the Nelson's for the Playground Equipment Set will soon be accomplished.

Greg Herrling & Larry Z

WELCA News

SEPTEMBER ALTAR DUTY

Pat Powers & Laura Winchip



ELCA commemorates 500th anniversary of Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*

This year marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's treatise *The Freedom of a Christian*. To observe this milestone, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), invites the church to read, study and reflect on this Lutheran witness of the Christian faith.

In his work, Luther spoke of how God liberates us in Christ to live generously and courageously in service of our neighbor's liberation, confident that God's mercy will free us all.

“Christian[s] ... do not live in themselves but in Christ and their neighbor, or else they are not Christian,” Luther wrote. “They live in Christ through faith and in the neighbor through love. Through faith they are caught up beyond themselves into God; likewise through love they fall down beneath themselves into the neighbor — remaining nevertheless always in God and God's love.”

To commemorate the anniversary, the ELCA has developed a study guide and other resources, available at elca500.org, to deepen readers' engagement with the 500-year-old text. As a partner in this project, Fortress Press has generously made available a complimentary download of the treatise, available through 2020.

In her introduction to the study guide, Eaton writes, “In this treatise, Luther describes a ‘happy exchange’ wherein Christ sets us free by taking upon himself humankind's sin, pain and judgment, and in return giving us his liberating life. ... We are empowered in turn to use our freedom to serve our neighbors, whoever they may be. This message remains timely when voices that marginalize certain people, or preach contempt, hatred and violence, dominate our public discourse. How do we hear and trust this word from God today, and continue to serve God's life-giving work?”

Luther's purpose in writing *The Freedom of a Christian* was to present the core of

Synod News (continued)

his teaching about the Bible and the Christian faith to Pope Leo X. With an impending split between Luther and the official church, the treatise was a last attempt at reconciliation to prevent the fracturing of the church.

“The Freedom of a Christian is such a beautiful, deep and simple exposition of the Christian faith that it is no surprise that, 500 years after Martin Luther first wrote it, we are still learning from it,” said the Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, director for ELCA theological diversity and engagement. Santos led the development of the ELCA’s initiative. “I pray that this study guide and case studies representing a wide diversity of perspectives will help many to rediscover the awesome freedom that we have in Christ and the joy of using that freedom to serve our neighbors. We also hope that people will feel inspired to contribute their own reflections inspired by *The Freedom of a Christian*.”

“Today, as in Luther’s day, our faithful response to the uncertainty and death-dealing forces in our world is to proclaim that which is sure and life-giving for all,” Eaton writes in her introduction. “Freed in Christ, we resist the temptation to turn inward in despair by turning outward in love and service to the world. Siblings in Christ, rejoice! We are no longer captive, but free.”

The *Freedom of a Christian* treatise, study guide, case studies and information about submitting contributions are available at elca500.org.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8052>



Sept 12 – Sugar Creek Annual Quilt and Antique Auction –
Craft Fair, 5K Trail Run, Fun Walk

For more information: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/8-2/retreats/special-events/>

WEEK FOUR:

Hope for creative and courageous leadership

California

For Jamie Stark, a lay mission developer in the Bay Area of California, that call to play a role in God's plan began when he first learned about Holy Communion and the idea of "food as a gateway to God." Inspired by the work he saw in El Salvador, Jamie moved to the Bay Area and co-founded Farming Hope, a farm-to-table job-training nonprofit organization, which is supported by ELCA World Hunger and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. Farming Hope provides transitional employment and job training to unhoused and low-income people in the community. As part of the program, participants learn to farm, grow and cook food – job skills and life skills that can help them earn a living to support themselves and their families. Farming Hope works with hiring partners to hire graduates of the program after they complete it.

Farming Hope might not look like a church, but as Jamie describes it, "it is a holy place," a place where relationships are formed and community is nurtured



while basic vocational needs are met. Jamie's vision of food as a gateway to God and the restoration of relationships that God intends is at the core of Farming Hope's work. "When I sit at the table at Farming Hope's restaurant in San Francisco (Manny's), if I open my eyes, I see communion exactly as Jesus of Nazareth intended it to be – friends, eating intentionally ... we're all welcome."

For Jamie, seeing Holy Communion for what it was – a table at which all are welcome – and being inspired by the work he witnessed in El Salvador fostered hope that, by focusing on relationships built through food, Farming Hope could create opportunities for both jobs and community in San Francisco.

Urgent bulletin

More than 47,000 Quilts and Kits were destroyed in the Beirut explosion.



Beirut Blast: Help Families in Crisis

The city of Beirut, Lebanon, is in crisis after an explosion on August 4 took many lives and destroyed entire portions of the city. Thousands of our neighbors are injured, hundreds of thousands have lost their homes and hospitals are so overwhelmed they are turning people away.

Pray with us, in gratitude and in mourning

“I flew 6 meters across the house.”

One Lutheran World Relief colleague suffered minor injuries in the blast, and her apartment building collapsed shortly after she helped an injured neighbor to safety. Read her story [here](#). Fortunately, all staff from LWR and our local partners survived the explosion and are safe. Please pray for these brothers and sisters as they seek to rebuild their own lives while continuing to carry your love to those most in need.

Help us replace Quilts & Kits lost in the explosion

Your love is well-known in Lebanon, reaching poor Lebanese families and large populations of Syrian and Palestinian refugees to overcome the challenges of the country’s ongoing economic crisis.

Unfortunately, the blast destroyed three of LWR’s 40-foot shipping containers, which were stored in the port and held more than 22,000 LWR Mission Quilts, 100 cartons of School Kits, 300 cartons of Personal Care Kits and 125 cartons of Baby Care Kits that were being prepared for distribution to an estimated 24,550 men, women and children who were already in great need.

Our hearts are breaking as we grieve and pray with our brothers and sisters in Beirut. We are committed to replacing the aid that was lost and are working on an



emergency response to provide assistance as the city recovers and rebuilds.

The total monetary value of this loss is more than \$623,000, while the value of the time and love our quilters and kit-makers put into sewing, assembling and praying over these items is impossible to calculate. Though this loss is small compared to any loss of life, we are devastated that our neighbors who were already struggling — and who need these items now more than ever — will suffer even more without them.

Your gift to our World of Good emergency response fund will help get quilts and kits into the hands that need them in Lebanon.

Call or email

PRAYER

REQUEST to

Jan Cowan - 767-4616 - jancowan@tds.net
Kay Rettenmund - 767-2328 - rett@tds.net.

It is our time to build a legacy

Become a member of the Legacy Fund. Members of the Legacy Fund come from all walks of life and are united by a desire to preserve our beautiful Church and Cemetery.

Vermont Lutheran Church owns and maintains a cemetery, historic church building and Gathering Place with a hilltop viewscape. Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all the gifts God has given us, including accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources. Therefore, we created the Legacy Fund to encourage, receive and administer these gifts.

Our goal is to generate a Legacy Fund of \$1 Million dollars, or more.

Through receipt of bequests, grants and/or gifts, contributions to the Legacy Fund and investment growth will serve two very important purposes now and into the future:

- To purchase neighboring land for expansion of the cemetery; and/or
- Provide funds for future maintenance of the cemetery and/or building and grounds needs of the Church.

Any legacy member whose contribution totals \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a brass plate on a prominently displayed plaque. Annual meeting reports will include all the names of those individuals who made a contribution of any amount that year.

October Newsletter
articles are due
September 25th

to Elizabeth Herrling at
vermont_church@tds.net

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Visit Vermont's Website:

www.vermontlutheran.org

Password: God'sWork

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news and pictures!**

